

CBI CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES PREVIEW

UTEP, Oregon State Meet In "Best Of Three" Starting Monday

(Princeton, NJ) - The 2009 College Basketball Invitational has reached the Championship Series, which will begin on Monday, March 30th. The "Best of Three" will pit the **UTEP Miners** (22-12) against the **Oregon State Beavers** (16-17).

HDNet will televise each game of the Championship Series beginning at 10:00 PM ET.

---- CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES----

Monday, March 30th

Gill Coliseum - Corvallis, OR
UTEP at Oregon State
10:00 PM ET (HDNet)

Wednesday, April 1st

Don Haskins Center - El Paso, TX
Oregon State at UTEP
10:00 PM ET (HDNet)

Friday, April 3rd (if necessary)

Don Haskins Center - El Paso, TX
Oregon State at UTEP
10:00 PM ET (HDNet)

Click [HERE](#) for a complete 2009 CBI bracket.

Click [HERE](#) for the CBI Tournament website.

UTEP (22-12) beat Nevada, Northeastern and Richmond to make it to the title series. Their wins have been by an average of **7.7** points and the Miners are the second highest scoring team in this year's tournament (**78.3**). Guard **Stefon Jackson** is averaging **28.7** points per game in the tournament, including 34 points in their semifinal win over Richmond. Off the bench, guard Randy Culpepper has added an average of **18.7** points per game.

Oregon State (16-17) beat Houston, Vermont and Stanford to make the finals. Their last two wins (Vermont & Stanford) required overtime. Oregon State has won their **three** games in the CBI Tournament by a total of **eight** points. The Beavers offense has been very efficient in the last two victories, shooting **50.5%** from the field (**40%** from three-point range) in that period.

UTEP vs. Oregon State

- UTEP and Oregon State have met just two times in the history of the schools, having split the two games (**1-1**). During the 1985-86 season, the Miners, then ranked #19 in the country, went into Corvallis and knocked off the Beavers, 64-49. The next season, the Beavers won at El Paso in the first game of the season by an 83-72 score.

- When these two teams met at the start of the 1986 season, two future NBA superstars were playing. Future nine-time NBA All Star **Gary Payton** was in uniform for Oregon State, while future five-time NBA All-Star **Tim Hardaway** was playing for UTEP.

- This is the latest into a season that Oregon State has been playing since the **1948-49** season when the Beavers made it to the NCAA "Final Four" in Seattle, Wash.

- The last time that UTEP won more than two post-season games was **1966** when UTEP (then Texas Western College) won the NCAA Title, beating Kentucky in the championship game. That team, coached by Don Haskins, was the first NCAA team to start five African-Americans. Their story was later brought to the 'big screen' in the movie **Glory Road**.

Conference USA vs. Pac-10

- The Pac-10 has a **3-1** record against C-USA during the 2008-09 campaign, including Oregon State's Opening Round win over Houston. The lone win by C-USA is from UAB, who beat Arizona by a **72-71** score.

By The Numbers

8,812: Wichita State fans in attendance for their Quarterfinal Round game against Stanford... the second largest crowd to date in the history of the CBI Tournament.

323: Total wins by CBI teams throughout the 2008-09 season... an average of **20.2** per team.

86: Total points scored by UTEP's **Stefon Jackson**, who is in line to break the CBI record for most points in a tournament, shared by Bradley's Jeremy Crouch and Tulsa's Ben Uzoh (104).

13.0: Average margin of victory in the NCAA Tournament.

9.2: Average margin of victory in the NIT.

6.6: Average margin of victory in the CBI.

3: Games left to decide the 2009 CBI Championship

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